

## Summary

### **Visit to the Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison (Report no. AJB-2726/2020)**

The National Preventive Mechanism and two colleagues of the OPCAT NPM Department paid a visit to the Szeged Strict and Medium Regime Prison on May 15, 2020.

The visit focused on the measures to prevent the spread of COVID pandemics and the means of communication to replace the visitation of the detainees. The inspection verified the safety equipment provided for the staff and the detainees, and the circumstances of the personal hygiene. The members of the visiting team conducted interviews with the management of the institution, the detainees and the staff members.

The detainees were allowed to stay on the fresh air for one hour every day. One of the positive practice of the institution was that the education and the religious activities carried on despite of the pandemics. Many religious themed small group activities were organised for the detainees that preferably none of them miss this possibility.

According to the Prison Act, at some departments of the institution psychologic group activities should have been held, but these were suspended due to the pandemics. It would have been preferable if these activities, like the religious programmes, were organised in small groups.

Almost every detainee used the possibility of Skype-calls or they were in contact with their relatives via telephone. The detainees appreciated the Skype-calls. With regard to the positive experiences it would be advisable that the Hungarian Prison Service provided this form of communication in the future.